

REMARKS


This is in response to the Office Action that was mailed on March 28, 2006. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in this application. Claims 11-20 are rewritten to replace the phrase "characterized in that" with the term "wherein". This amendment does not in any way change the scope of claims 11-20. Claim 24 is rewritten in independent form, also without change of scope. Claims 3-10, 21-23, 25-37, 39 and 40 are cancelled, without prejudice to their subject matter or to their re-presentation in this or a continuing application. No new matter is introduced by this Amendment. Entry of this Amendment in order to place the application into condition for allowance is earnestly solicited. With this Amendment, claims 11-20 and 24 are pending in the application.

Claims 3-10, 21-23, 25-37, 39, and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over each of US 5,230,866 (Shartle), US 4,426,451 (Columbus), US 5,223,219 (Subramanian), and US 5,948,673 (Cottingham). These rejections are rendered moot by the cancellation, without prejudice, of the rejected claims.

If there are any questions concerning the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Richard Gallagher (Reg. No. 28,781) at (703) 205-8008.

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Respectfully submitted,

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